

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.(original) A friction damper comprising:

a base body adapted to be capable of being attached to one of a pair of members which are displaced relative to each other;

a support secured to said base body and having a through hole;

a rod which extends through the through hole of said support, is movable in an axial direction with respect to said support, and is adapted to be capable of being attached to another one of the pair of members; and

a friction member which has a hollow cylindrical portion interposed between said support and said rod in the through hole of said support, and is fixed immovably with respect to the relative movement of the rod in the axial direction with respect to said base body,

said hollow cylindrical portion of said friction member having a mesh-like base material disposed on a radially outer peripheral surface side thereof and a synthetic resin-made sliding layer filling meshes of said base material and formed on one surface of said base material, and

said sliding layer being disposed on radially inner peripheral surface side of said hollow cylindrical portion so as to be brought into contact with said rod slidably in the axial direction.

2.(original) The friction damper according to claim 1, further comprising:
tightening means for tightening said hollow cylindrical portion of said friction member against said rod, the through hole of said support and said hollow cylindrical portion of said friction member being reducible in diameter, said tightening means being adapted to reduce the diameter of said hollow cylindrical portion of said friction member through the reduction in diameter of the through hole of said support to tighten said hollow cylindrical portion against said rod.

3.(original) The friction damper according to claim 2, wherein said support has a slit communicating with the through hole and is thereby reducible in diameter.

4.(original) The friction damper according to claim 3, wherein said tightening means has a bolt threadedly engaged with said support, so as to be able to reduce the width of the slit.

5.(original) The friction damper according to claim 2, wherein said support is formed into two-split members and is thereby reducible in diameter.

6.(original) The friction damper according to claim 5, wherein said tightening means has a bolt threadedly engaged with said support, so as to be able to reduce the width of a gap between said two-split members.

7.(currently amended) The friction damper according to ~~any one of claims 2 to 6~~claim 2, wherein said hollow cylindrical portion of said friction member has a slit extending from one end face to another end face thereof in the axial direction, and is thereby reducible in diameter.

8.(currently amended) The friction damper according to ~~any one of claims 2 to 6~~claim 2, wherein said hollow cylindrical portion of said friction member is formed into two-split members and is thereby reducible in diameter.

9.(currently amended) The friction damper according to ~~any one of claims 2 to 8~~claim 2, wherein, in addition to said hollow cylindrical portion, said friction member has a collar formed integrally with said hollow cylindrical portion, and is fixed immovably with respect to the relative movement of said rod in the axial direction with respect to said base body at said collar.

10.(currently amended) The friction damper according to ~~any one of claims 2 to 9~~claim 2, wherein a plurality of supports arranged in the axial direction are provided, and said tightening means and said friction member are provided for each of said supports.

11.(currently amended) The friction damper according to ~~any one of claims 2 to 8~~claim 2, wherein a plurality of supports arranged in the axial direction are provided, and said tightening means and said friction member are provided for each of said supports, and, in addition to said hollow cylindrical portion, each of said friction members has a collar formed integrally with said hollow cylindrical portion, and is fixed immovably with respect to the relative movement of said rod in the axial direction with respect to said base body by being clamped by said supports adjoining at said collar.

12.(currently amended) The friction damper according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 11~~claim 1, wherein said base material comprises one of an expanded metal and a metal wire net.

13.(currently amended) The friction damper according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 12~~claim 1, wherein said sliding layer contains polyimide resin.

14.(currently amended) The friction damper according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 13~~claim 1, wherein said sliding layer contains tetrafluoroethylene resin.

15.(currently amended) The friction damper according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 14~~claim 1, wherein said base body includes a tubular body; one cover secured to one end portion of said tubular body and having a through hole through which said rod is passed through; and another cover secured to another end portion of said tubular body and having a fitting attached thereto for being attached to the one member, said support being secured to an inner peripheral surface of said tubular body.

16.(currently amended) The friction damper according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 15~~claim 1, further comprising at least one displaceable member interposed between said support and said hollow cylindrical portion of said friction member.

17.(original) The friction damper according to claim 16, wherein said displaceable member has a slit and is thereby reducible in diameter.

18.(original) The friction damper according to claim 16, wherein said displaceable member is formed into two-split members and is thereby reducible in diameter.

19.(currently amended) The friction damper according to ~~any one of claims 16 to 18~~claim 16, wherein said displaceable member is formed of one of a rubber plate, a copper plate, and an embossed plate.

20.(currently amended) The friction damper according to ~~any one of claims 16 to 19~~claim 16, wherein a plurality of displaceable members are superposed one on top of another, and are interposed between said support and said hollow cylindrical portion of said friction member.

21.(currently amended) The friction damper according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 20~~claim 1, wherein said rod is formed of a solid or hollow member having a cylindrical surface on an outer peripheral surface thereof.

22.(currently amended) A friction member used for the friction damper according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 21~~claim 1.